

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 EB-11 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

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PM/ISO - CAPT. DEWENTER (SUB)
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R 292322Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064001

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENGR, PFOR, MARR, JA
SUBJECT: FUEL PROCUREMENT IN JAPAN FOR U.S. FORCES

REF: TOKYO 3612

1. GULF OIL WASHINGTON REPS HAVE CONTACTED DEPT (EA/J) ON URGENT BASIS RE "POLITICAL DECISION" PROHIBITING PROCUREMENT OF FUEL BY US FORCES FROM STOCKS HELD IN JAPAN. WITH PRESENT JP4 STOCKS ON OKINAWA REPORTEDLY STRAINING STORAGE CAPACITY AND FAR IN EXCESS OF ANY FORESEEABLE JAPANESE REQUIREMENT, GULF IS FACED WITH NECESSITY FOR EARLY DECISION WHETHER TO CUT BACK OPERATION OF OKINAWA REFINERY OR ATTEMPT SELL JP4 FOR EXPORT FROM JAPAN. ACCORDING TO GULF, U.S. MILITARY IS ONLY IN-COUNTRY CUSTOMER FOR AMOUNT OF JP4 INVOLVED, AND FULFILLMENT OF U.S. MILITARY REQUIREMENTS WILL REQUIRE SHIPMENT OF JP4 FROM U.S. IF OKINAWA STOCKS REMAIN UNAVAILABLE.

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2. GULF REPS SAID REPORT FROM TOKYO OFFICE INDICATE EMBASSY PLANS REVIEW QUESTION OF FUEL PROCUREMENT WITH GOJ ON MONTHLY BASIS. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF RECENT LIFTING OF ARAB OIL EMBARGO TO U.S., RETURN TO NEAR NORMAL OIL SITUATION IN JAPAN, IMPACT ON JOINT VENTURE STORAGE AND REFINERY OPERATIONS IN OKINAWA, AND ADDED COST OF FUEL SHIPPED FROM U.S., GULF URGED EARLY RECONSIDERATION OF "POLITICAL DECI-

SION" TO PERMIT SUPPLY OF OKINAWA JP4 ONLY TO U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN.

3. DEPTOFF INFORMED GULF REPS THAT PROHIBITION OF FUEL PROCUREMENT IN JAPAN IS UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW BUT EARLY CHANGE IN POLICY UNLIKELY.

4. IN LIGHT OF RECENT FOREIGN MINISTRY REPOSE CONTAINED REFTTEL, DEPT RECOGNIZES THERE MAY BE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF EARLY SHIFT IN GOJ POSITION. HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT ON PRESENT SITUATION AS REPORTED BY GULF REPS AND, IF RENEWED APPROACH CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME, EARLY REPORT OF GOJ REACTION.

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